

HOUSE BILL 474

R1, M3
HB 1552/10 – ENV

EMERGENCY BILL

1lr1796

By: **Delegates James, Beidle, Bohanan, Bromwell, Clagett, Conway, DeBoy, Donoghue, Griffith, Lafferty, Malone, Minnick, Olszewski, Rudolph, Sophocleus, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2011

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Construction and Development Projects – Expedited Approval of State**
3 **Permits**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment and the State
5 Highway Administration to develop and implement processes to expedite the
6 approval of State permits for construction and development projects that have
7 received “fast track” or similar status from a county in the State or that will
8 create a significant number of jobs and have a positive economic impact on the
9 State; requiring the Department and the Administration to report to the
10 General Assembly on or before a certain date; making this Act an emergency
11 measure; and generally relating to State permits for construction and
12 development projects in the State.

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, The national recession has resulted in unprecedented economic
15 harm to the State of Maryland; and

16 WHEREAS, Even as there are signs of economic recovery, job loss continues and
17 evidence that there will be a jobless recovery continues to mount; and

18 WHEREAS, The prolonged nature of the recession has inflicted profound
19 damage on the State’s construction and development sectors; and

20 WHEREAS, The often lengthy process of obtaining a State permit for a
21 construction or development project may needlessly delay the commencement of
22 otherwise “shovel ready” projects and impede the creation of jobs in the State; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Job creation is vital to the future of the State of Maryland; now,
2 therefore,

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
4 MARYLAND, That the Department of the Environment and the State Highway
5 Administration shall develop and implement processes to expedite the approval of
6 permits for construction and development projects that have received “fast track” or
7 similar status from a county in the State or that will create a significant number of
8 jobs and have a positive economic impact on the State.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1,
10 2011, the Department of the Environment and the State Highway Administration
11 shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
12 Government Article, on the implementation of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
14 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
15 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
16 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
17 the date it is enacted.